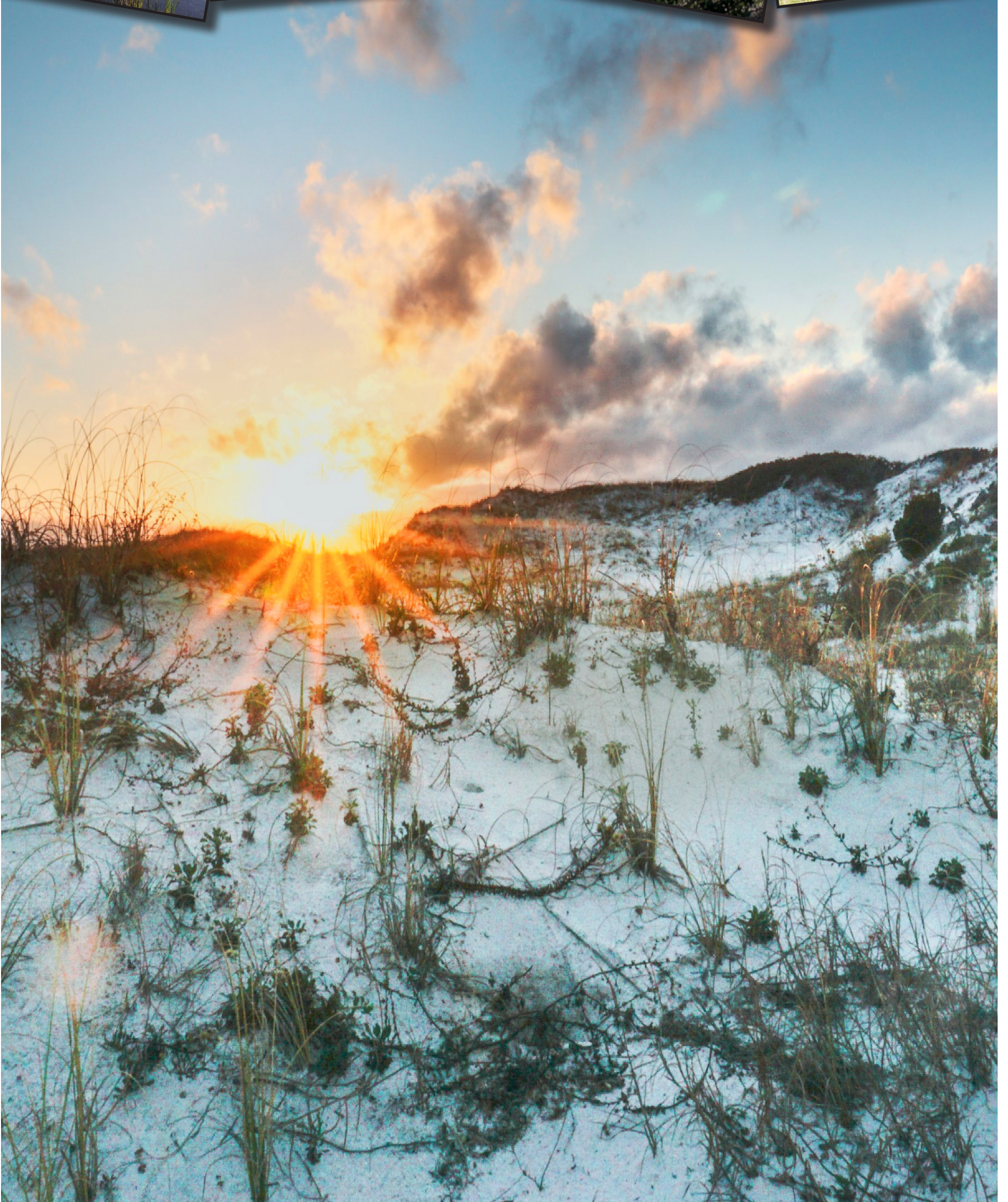
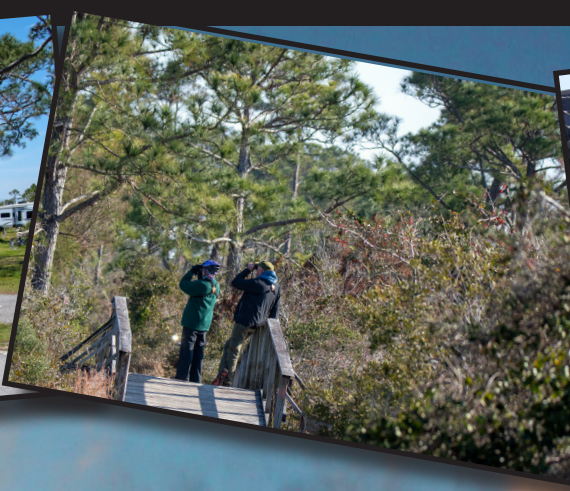


The Island Breeze

Gulf Islands National Seashore
Park Newspaper - 2021 Edition



Welcome to Gulf Islands National Seashore!



It is my honor and privilege to represent Gulf Islands National Seashore as the new superintendent.

My vision for the park is simple. I want Gulf Islands National Seashore to be a park where staff are proud to work, the community is proud to have as a neighbor and partner, and most important, people enjoy visiting.

Join me in recognizing the park's 50th Anniversary this year. As the nation's largest seashore, this national park has something for everyone- forts with cannons, white beaches, winding bayous, wildlife habitats, boardwalk trails, and my favorite activity, camping under the stars with my family.

With all there is to see and do on land, visitors are often surprised to find that a majority of the park - over 80 percent - consist of water extending a mile into the Gulf of Mexico and into the quieter waters of the Santa Rosa and Mississippi sounds.

With such a big area to support, we rely on our partners. Passengers ferries like the Pensacola Bay Cruises in Florida, and Ship Island Excursions in Mississippi, provide visitors transportation while sharing the water with pods of dolphins and diving pelicans. Concessionaires like Eastern National ensure you have souvenirs and cancellation stamps readily available.

I hope you enjoy your visit to our seashore and take advantage of all that it has to offer. Relax, enjoy, explore!

Darrel Echols,
Superintendent

Numbers to Know

Gulf Islands National Seashore was established on

January 8, 1971

It stretches

160 miles

from end to end, containing a total of

139,175 acres

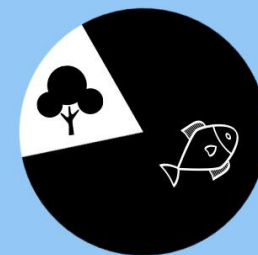
making it the

Largest National Seashore

in the U.S.A.

82%

of Gulf Islands National Seashore is submerged underwater



It supports a range of wildlife, including

5 types of sea turtles
and
345 species of birds

Volunteers In Parks



Examples of volunteer roles:

- Tour Boat Services
- Living History Programs
- Campground Site Hosts
- Traffic Control
- Maintenance
- Photography
- Historic Preservation
- Beach Cleanup
- Marine Turtle Program
- Guided Tours

To inquire about additional opportunities, group opportunities, or general questions, email guis_information@nps.gov

Contact Us

Phone

General Inquiries: 850-934-2600
Mississippi Visitor Center : 228-230-4100
Campground Reservations:
1-877-444-6777

Email

guis_information@nps.gov

Mail

1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

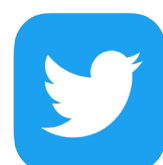
On The Web



Facebook:
[@GulfIslandsNPS](https://www.facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPS)



Instagram:
[@GulfIslandsNPS](https://www.instagram.com/GulfIslandsNPS)



Twitter:
[@GulfIslandsNPS](https://twitter.com/GulfIslandsNPS)



National Park Service App:
Download from Google Play or Apple App Store

Superintendent's Corner

Cruisin' the Bay

The lyrics of beach balladeer Jimmy Buffett capture the fun, joy, and relaxation of being on the water in a boat. Landlubbers and would-be boat owners can now join in by catching a ride aboard one of the park's beautiful new 150 passenger, double decker, catamaran tour boats that ply park waters between Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and Fort Pickens during the spring, summer and fall. Christened the Turtle Runner and Pelican Perch by local school children, the two boats are the fleet for Pensacola Bay Cruises, operated by park concessioner HMS Ferries. Passengers can ride within the air conditioned main deck cabin with access to snack bar, video screen, and restrooms, or enjoy the sea breezes and vistas commanding a 360 degree view from the shaded upper observation deck.

*Somethin' 'bout a boat
Sittin' on the sea
Out there in the wind
Floatin' on the free*



The leisurely boat ride is part of the Gulf Islands experience you don't want to miss. Each leg of the route passes through National Seashore waters. During summer months, park rangers are aboard to point out dolphins, pelicans, and other wildlife, and bring the 500 year maritime history of the Pensacola area to life. Tickets are more than your pass of transport – they grant all-day “hop-on, hop-off” privileges so you can visit different destinations throughout the day, disembarking and re-boarding at the beach, city, or national park, all for the price of a single ticket. Going by boat avoids the traffic and congestion of beach-connecting roads and bridges, and the never-ending search for limited parking spaces. As an added benefit, upon arrival at Fort Pickens, tour boat passengers gain free entrance to the park (the \$25 national park entrance fee is waived for all tour boat passengers), where you can take a tour of the fort, watch musket and cannon firing demonstrations, or participate in other ranger activities. After exploring the fort, ride a free shuttle to Langdon Beach or the Fort Pickens campground aboard solar-powered electric trams provided by the National Park Service.

The 2 ½ hour circuit around the Bay with Pensacola Bay Cruises is a great way to embrace the salt air and gain your sea legs, and connects the abundant activities and experiences of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. And everything is better by boat.

Borrowing another line from our famous beach balladeer - *So let's just all. cruise along.*

Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

The National Park Service is dedicated to sharing our nation's stories. The Black freedom struggle is one of those stories.

The National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom is a federal program established in 1998 for the purpose of commemorating the stories of men and women who risked everything for freedom and those who helped them.

The Network to Freedom honors, preserves, and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight worldwide. It helps weave local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs related to the Underground Railroad into a community of national stories.

Gulf Islands National Seashore has two Underground Railroad sites listed on the Network to Freedom Program. These sites are in Florida and include Fort Pickens and the Fort Barrancas Area.

In March of 1861, eight enslaved people approached Union-held Fort Pickens hoping to gain their freedom, but the commanding officer returned these freedom seekers—the first in the United States to voluntarily enter Union lines in what became the Civil War—to slavery. More freedom seekers soon made their way to the island fort, arriving individually and in pairs. The story of Peter Dyson and his wife Henrietta is one that ended successfully. The couple sailed to freedom aboard a small boat and then walked through Union lines in August of 1861.

As soon as Union soldiers reoccupied Pensacola in 1862, more freedom seekers began entering their lines. One the targeted locations was Barrancas located in Pensacola. In 1863, the Union army occupied a camp at Barrancas for recruiting, training, and staging white and Black soldiers for operations on the Gulf Coast.

In the fall of 1863, a man named Henry Stalbert fled his enslaver's Alabama plantation. He made the long and dangerous journey to Barrancas with an iron bar fastened to one of his legs. This was a torture instrument put there by the enslaver. After entering the camp, Henry joined the United States Colored Troops, becoming one of about 180,000 Black soldiers who fought for the Union.

Today these powerful and emotional stories are preserved at Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas Area. Visit today to learn about the fight for Black freedom and racial equality.



Things to Do



Beach-combing

The quartz sand beaches of Gulf Islands National Seashore are some of the best in the United States. Whether you're taking in the sun or enjoying the view from the boardwalk trails, the park's beaches offer endless fun for the whole family. Please remember to leave what you find and take what you bring including trash.



Bird Watching

Many different birds call Gulf Islands home. From herons to plovers, you're bound to see a wide variety during your visit.

If you're interested in tracking the birds visit www.nps.gov/articles/birding-for-beginners.htm



Boating

Did you know that over 80 percent of the park is located in the water? Boating can be a great way to experience the blue-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the many sounds, bayous, and bays in the area. Check weather and sea reports before heading out on the water.



Camping

Two campgrounds offer RV and tent camping with modern amenities including warm showers and restrooms. Looking for a wilder experience? Backcountry camping is permitted in several areas of the park as well. Go to page 10 for more information.



Fishing

There are plenty of opportunities to catch the big one. Whether you're on the beach, a pier, or a boat, you'll probably see visitors casting a line. Keep in mind that park regulations for fishing are the same as the state fishing regulations in Florida and Mississippi.



Hiking

Throughout each area of the national seashore there are a variety of hiking trails to explore, to include boardwalk and nature trails. In Florida, you'll find over 15 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Check weather reports before hiking in the park.



Picnicking

There are many picnic areas and pavilions throughout the national seashore.

Some pavilions are able to be reserved in advance. See page 12 for more information.

Please remember to practice *Pack It In, Pack It Out*.



Ranger Programs

Experience the national seashore with a ranger

Programs vary in topic from the historic forts to wildlife habitats.

Program schedules are posted at the park's visitor centers and online at www.nps.gov/guis.



Self-guiding Tours

Want to explore the historic buildings preserved at your own pace?

Download the national park service app for a map and instructions.

Informative signs throughout each area are also full of stories about people, places, and events.



Swimming

Swim beaches are located on the gulf and soundside of many of the park's areas and islands. Be mindful of rip current conditions.

Know what to do if you get caught in a rip current before entering the water and **never** swim alone.



Visitor Centers

Take an in-depth look into what makes Gulf Islands National Seashore special.

The park's visitor center and Discovery Center are full of hands-on, interactive, and audio-visual exhibits for visitors to learn more about the park.

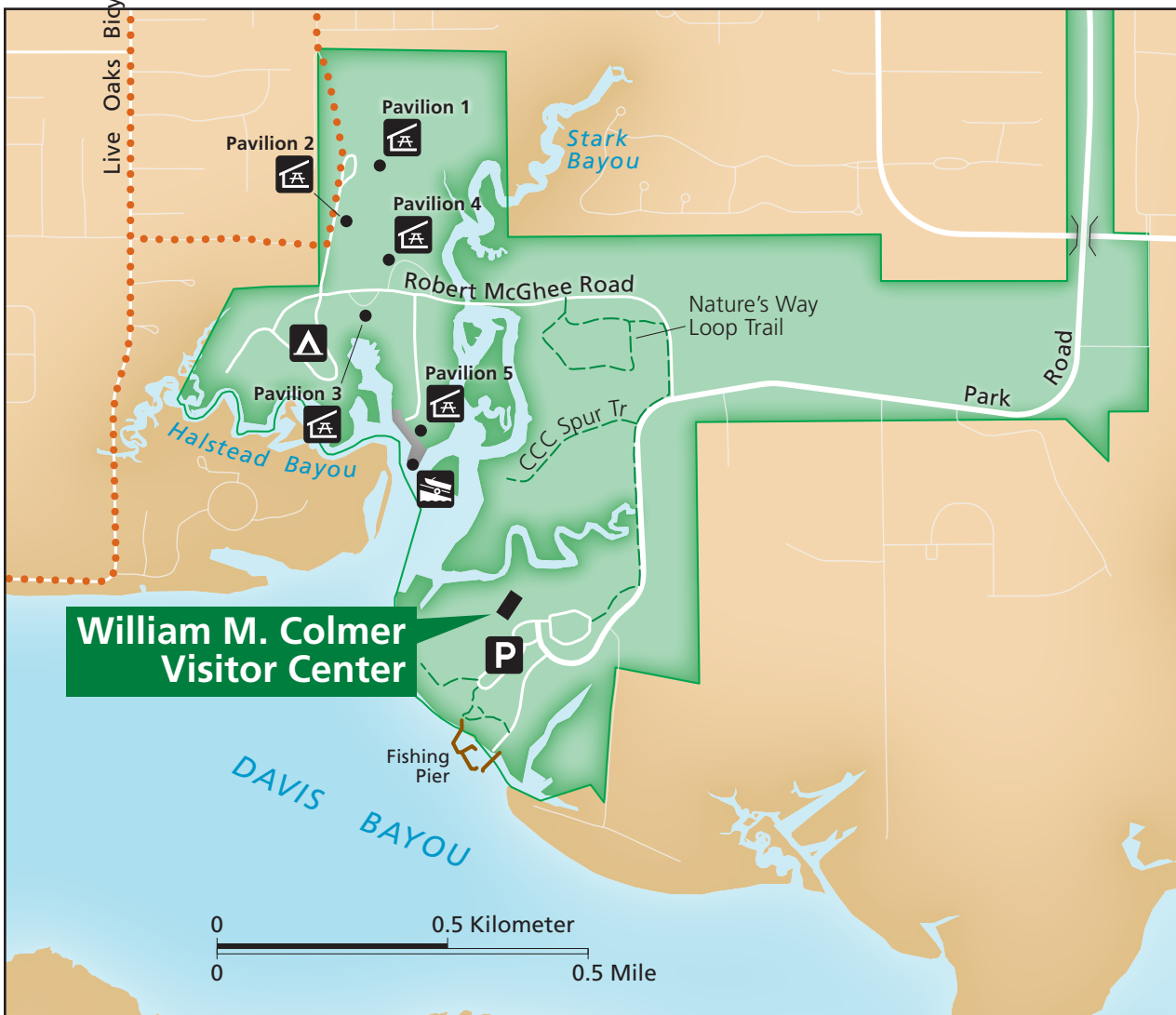


Wildlife Viewing

From alligators to turtles, to the Perdido Key beach mouse, Gulf Islands is teeming with wildlife.

An exciting experience for any visitor, but please remember to keep your distance and do not disturb the wildlife.

Davis Bayou Area



The Davis Bayou Area is the only mainland area of the national seashore in Mississippi. The area offers incredible views of the bayou and the Mississippi Sound.

The William M. Colmer Visitor Center offers many interactive exhibits about the bayou and the barrier islands for all ages. There are several hiking trails and picnic pavilions for visitors to enjoy while in the area.

Visitors can explore the bayou with a ranger on foot or by boat during the summer season. Program schedules are posted at the visitor center and campground.

For visitors interested in staying at the park overnight, the Davis Bayou Campground offers several sites for recreational vehicles and tent camping. In addition to the campground, there is also a boat launch in the Davis Bayou Area.

Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov. See page 10 for more information on the seashore's campgrounds.

William M. Colmer Visitor Center

3500 Park Road

Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

From I-10 East take Exit 50 toward Ocean Springs. Continue on MS-609 South for 2.8 miles. Turn left onto Bienville Blvd. The Davis Bayou Area entrance is about 2.9 miles ahead on the right.

From I-10 West take Exit 57 toward Ocean Springs. Turn right onto Ocean Springs Road, and continue for 12 miles. At the intersection continue straight onto Park Road.

Ship Island



Ship Island is located 12 miles from mainland Mississippi, and features the masonry fortification, Fort Massachusetts.

Visitor facilities include restrooms, picnic pavilions, a snack bar, beach equipment rentals, and tours of the historic fort all of which are available between mid-March and October.

A commercial ferry runs to the island during this season, depending on weather conditions. For ferry schedule and pricing, please visit www.msshishopland.com

Ferry to Ship Island

1040 23rd Avenue

Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

From Ocean Springs follow Hwy. 90 to the west for 14 miles. Turn left onto 20th Avenue and then left onto Jones Park Drive.

195 Beach Boulevard

Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

From Ocean Springs follow Hwy. 90 to the west for 3 miles. Parking is on the left.

Mississippi Islands



Cat, Horn, West Petit Bois, and Petit Bois islands are accessible by private boat only. You can find a list of licensed charter private boat operators for transportation to these islands on our website www.nps.gov/guis/getinvolved/cua_holders.htm



Miles Between	Fort Pickens Area	Fort Barrancas Area	Santa Rosa Day Use Area	Okaloosa Day Use Area	Perdido Key Area	Naval Live Oaks Area	Davis Bayou Area	Ship Island Ferry
Fort Pickens Area	0	33	15	45	34	13	130	150
Fort Barrancas Area	33	0	22	56	11	16	115	139
Santa Rosa Day Use Area	15	22	0	31	30	9	125	145
Okaloosa Day Use Area	45	56	31	0	59	34	156	176
Perdido Key Area	34	11	30	59	0	25	117	137
Naval Live Oaks Area	13	16	9	34	25	0	121	139
Davis Bayou Area	130	115	125	156	117	121	0	20
Ship Island Ferry	150	139	145	176	137	139	20	0
Mississippi Islands	Visit page five for information on how to visit Mississippi's barrier islands.							

nal Seashore Map



Pensacola Bay Areas



Pensacola Bay Cruises operates a seasonal tour boat service between downtown Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and Fort Pickens. For information about the service, please visit www.PensacolaBayCruise.com

Downtown Tour Boat Terminal *Commendancia Pier*

Located at the south end of Commendancia Street which is south of Main Street and east of Palafox Street.

Pensacola Beach Tour Boat Terminal *Quietwater Pier*

Located to the north of the intersection of Fort Pickens Road and Via De Luna within the Quietwater Beach Boardwalk complex.

Fort Pickens Tour Boat Terminal *Fort Pickens Sound Side*

Located north of the historic fort within the Fort Pickens Ferry Plaza complex.

Fort Barrancas Area



The Fort Barrancas Area preserves two historic forts, Fort Barrancas and Advanced Redoubt, built during the mid-1800s, as well as a Spanish battery built during the late 1700s.

Start your visit at the area's visitor center and then take a self-guiding or guided tour of the forts. There are also two trails if you'd like to take a short walk. Watch your step as you walk through the area, many surfaces are uneven and sandy. There is an entrance fee for the Fort Barrancas Area. See page 12 for information of park fees.

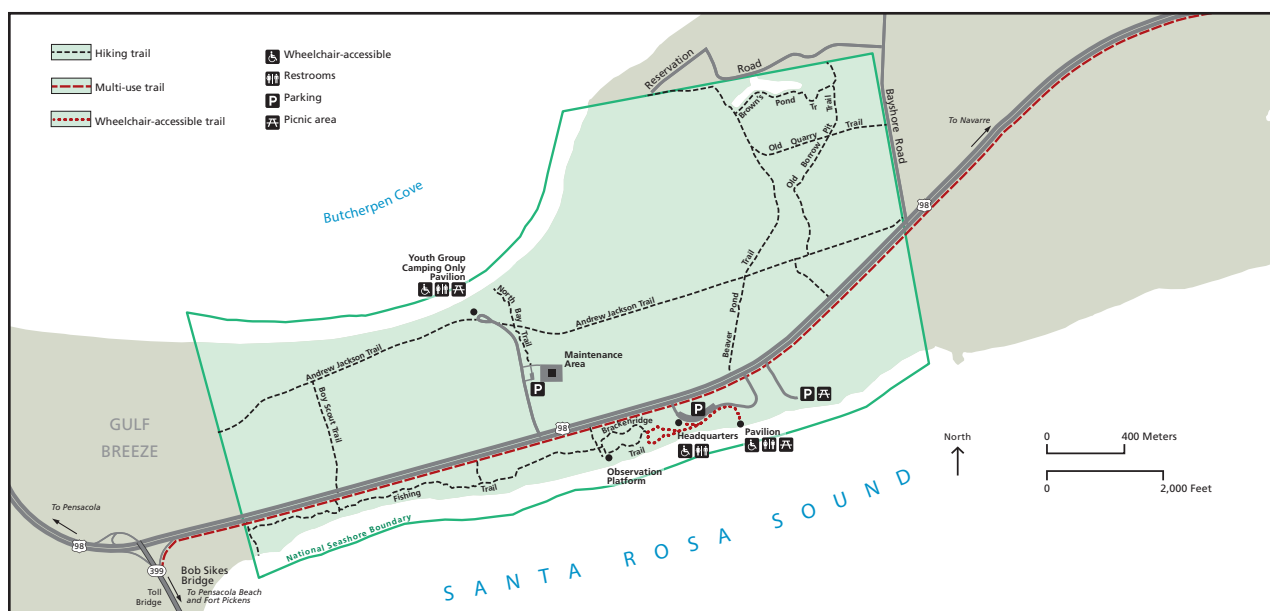
Fort Barrancas Visitor Center - On the Pensacola Naval Air Station

From I-10 take Exit 7A onto Pine Forest Road. Turn right onto Blue Angel Parkway and continue for 13 miles. After entering the gate, continue on Blue Angel Parkway toward the National Naval Aviation Museum. Just past the museum entrance turn left onto Taylor Road. The entrance to Fort Barrancas is on your right off Taylor Road.

Know Before You Go: Visitors must use the West Gate. Photo ID is required for all passengers. Check with Gulf Islands National Seashore prior to see if base is open to the public.

PENSACOLA BAY

Naval Live Oaks Area



The Naval Live Oaks Area preserves the oldest federal tree reserve. This area is great for picnicking, fishing, hiking, launching a kayak, and more. Park headquarters is also located here. There is no visitor center.

Park Headquarters

1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563

Head towards Pensacola Beach on U.S. Hwy. 98/Pensacola Bay Bridge. After reaching Gulf Breeze, stay on U.S. Hwy. 98 for 4.1 miles. Park Headquarters is on your right.

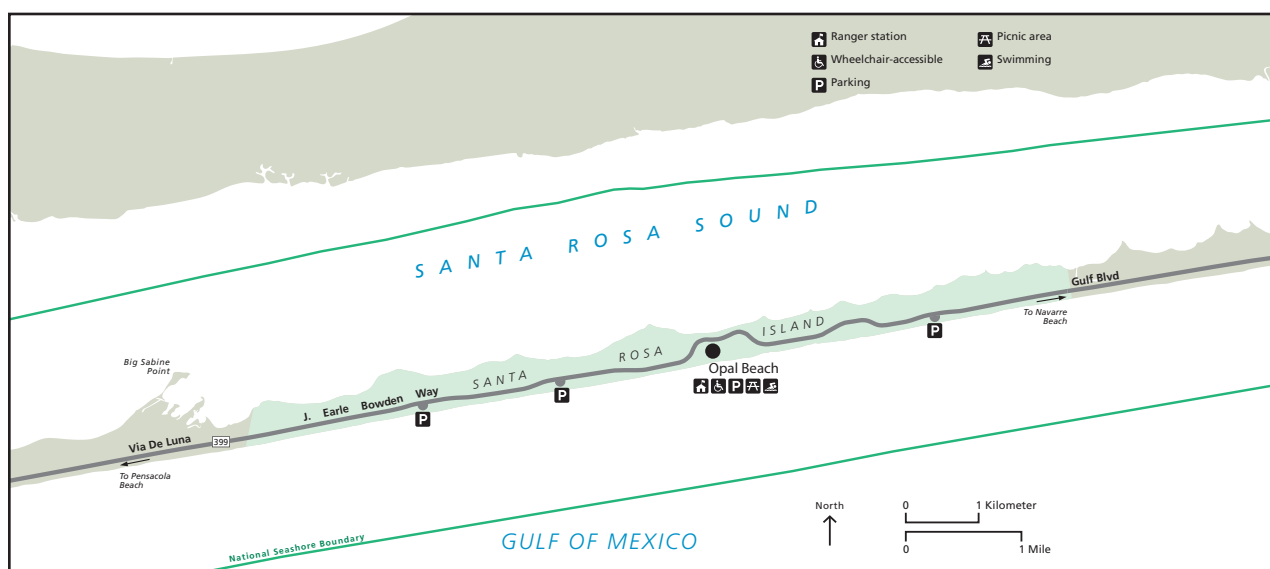
Okaloosa Area

The Okaloosa Area features an excellent opportunity for swimming in the calm waters of Choctawhatchee Bay. There are restrooms and a boat launch here. Picnicking and swimming are the major highlights of this area. Be sure to check weather and surf conditions before visiting. Visitors to this area must have a park pass or pay the entrance fee. Camping is not permitted in this area of the park. There is also a fee to use the boat launch in this area. See page 12 for more information regarding park fees.

Okaloosa Area

From downtown Pensacola, Florida follow U.S. 98 across the Pensacola Bay Bridge. After reaching Gulf Breeze, stay on U.S. 98 for 38.1 miles. The Okaloosa Area is just east of Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Santa Rosa Area



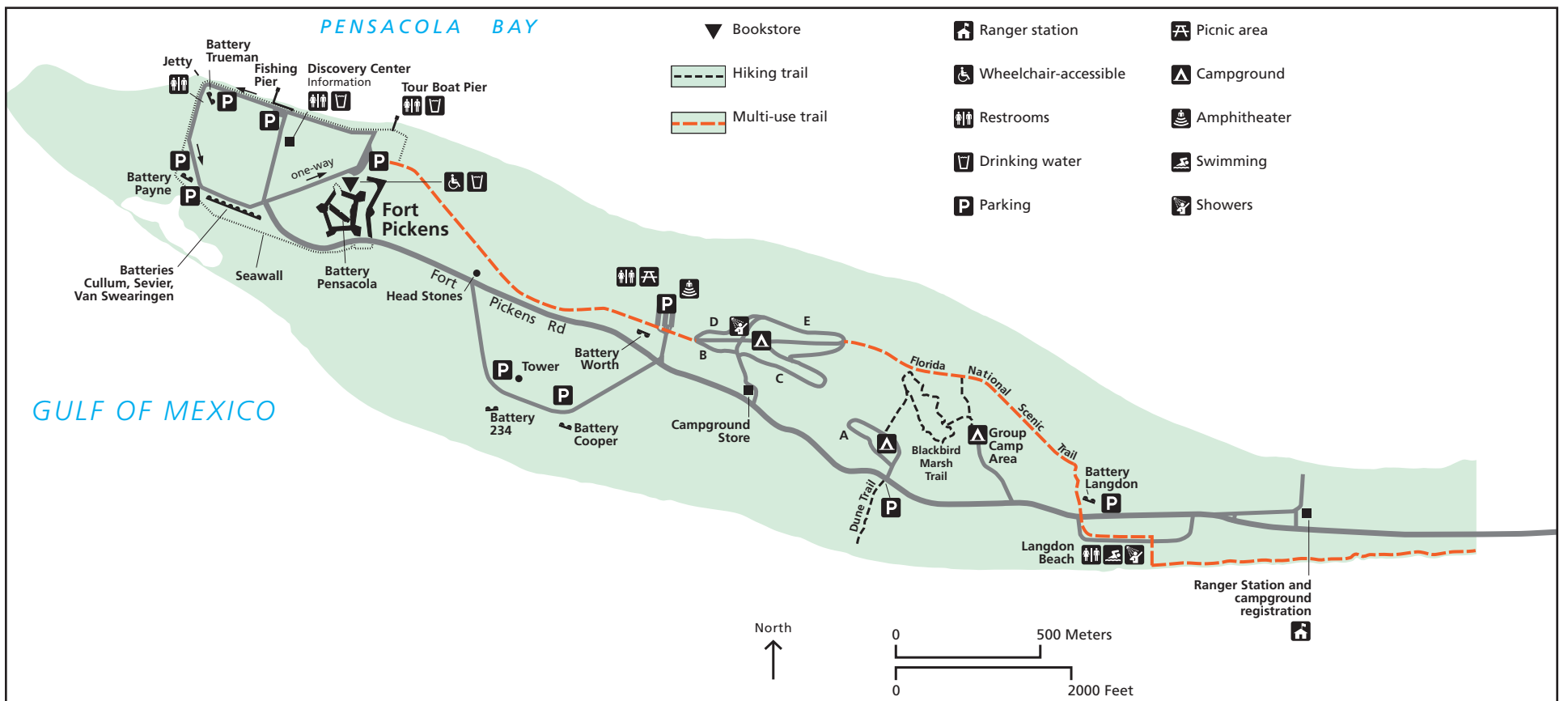
This seven mile strip of Santa Rosa Area features one of the most beautiful scenic drives along the Gulf of Mexico and some excellent beach access points. There are picnic pavilions and restrooms within the Opal Beach. See page 12 to learn how to reserve a pavilion for a special event or activity.

Beach combing, fishing, and swimming are the major highlights of this area. Be sure to check weather and surf conditions before visiting. Visitors to Opal Beach must have a park pass or pay the entrance fee. Camping is not permitted in this area of the park.

Opal Beach

To access Opal Beach and the Santa Rosa Area. From Interstate 10, take Exit 12 for I-110 South, exit 1B Gregory Street East, merge onto 30 E Chase Street, turn left onto Bayfront Parkway /Hwy 98 East, merge onto Hwy 399 to beaches, cross toll bridge (\$1.00), continue as the road curves to the left through Pensacola Beach.

Fort Pickens Area



The Fort Pickens Area is located on the western end of Santa Rosa Island and preserves more than 100 years of American coastal defensive structures. The Fort Pickens Discovery Center offers fun, interactive exhibits for all ages about the history of the site as well as its natural wonders. Take a hike on one of the many trails through the area, including the Florida National Scenic Trail. There's a bookstore open year round at historic Fort Pickens. Visit the incredible white-sand beaches and enjoy the blue-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico at one of the many beach access points. The Fort Pickens Campground is ideal for those looking to spend an extended vacation at the park.

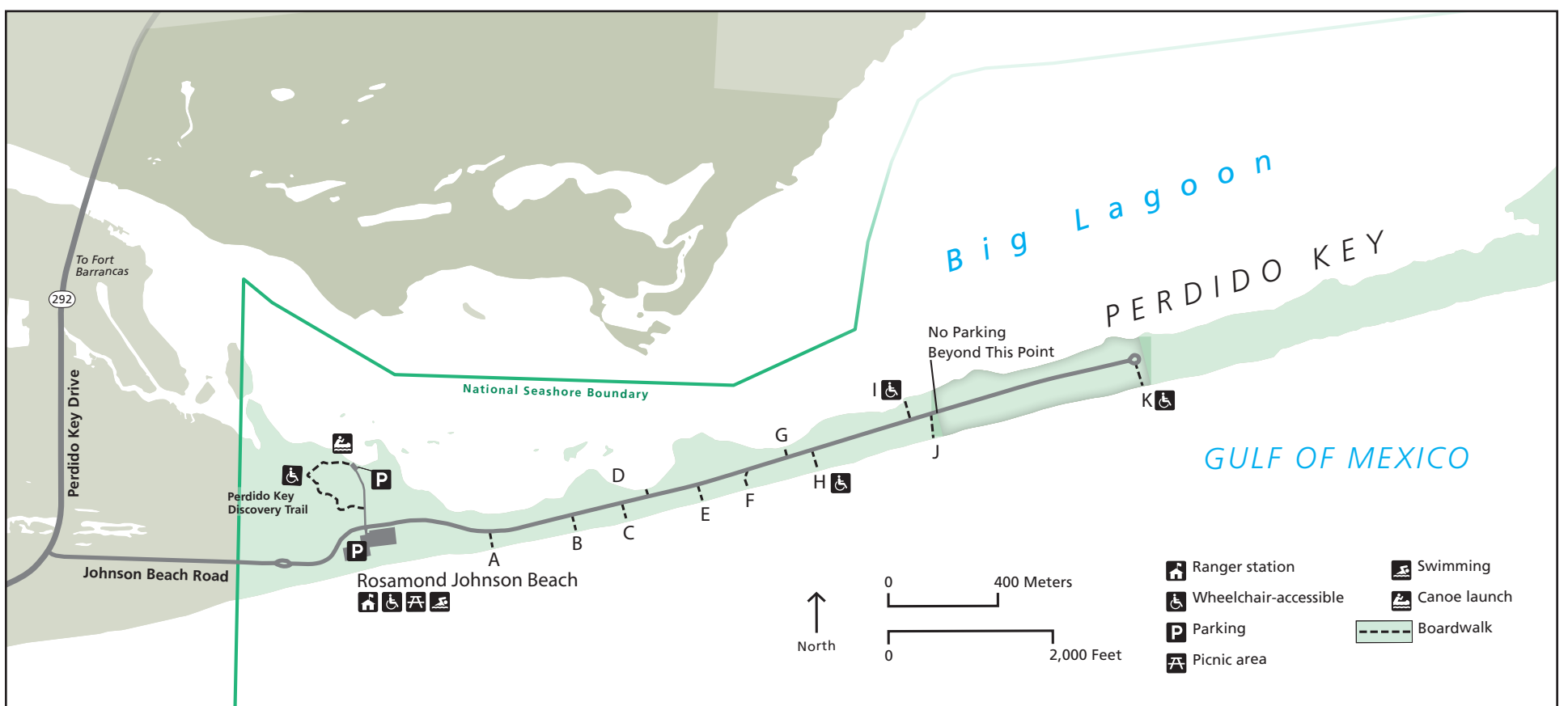
Visitors can explore the historic fortifications with a ranger or with one of the self-guiding tours on the National Parks Service app. Watch your step as you walk through the area, many surfaces are uneven and sandy. There is an entrance fee for the Fort Pickens Area. See page 12 for information of park fees and more information on the seashore's campgrounds.

Historic Fort Pickens

1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola, Florida 32561

From I-10 East or West take Exit 12 toward Pensacola Beach. Continue on I-110 South for 5.5 miles and follow signs to Gulf Breeze/ Gregory Street East. Continue onto US Hwy 98/Pensacola Bay Bridge for 4.6 miles. Use the right two lanes to turn right onto Pensacola Beach Road. After the toll both, turn right at the light onto Fort Pickens Road. Continue straight for 3.5 miles.

Perdido Key Area



The Perdido Key Area is often called the hidden gem of Northwest Florida. In addition to spectacular beach access points, this area has several picnic pavilions and hiking opportunities. Be sure to check weather and surf conditions before visiting. There is an entrance fee for the Perdido Key Area. See page 12 for information of park fees.

Johnson Beach

Perdido Key Area is off Florida Route 292, southwest from Pensacola; turn east on Johnson Beach Road. When heading south on 292, just after going over the bridge, turn left onto Johnson Beach Road, where road curves to the right. When heading north on Florida Route 292, take a right turn onto Johnson Beach Road, as the road curves to the left, before you reach the bridge.

Developed Campgrounds

All campgrounds reservations must be made on www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Reservations cannot be made on-site.

Fort Pickens Campground



Located on a barrier island between the Gulf of Mexico and Pensacola Bay, this large campground is open for reservations year-round. It contains nearly 200 sites with easy access to white sandy beaches, trails, and historic structures. Full details about each campground can be found at www.nps.gov/guis.

Basic Details:

- Camping fees do not include entrance fees.
- Amenities include flush toilets, showers, drinking water and a dump station.
- Loops A, C, & E permit two tents or one tent and one RV (motorhome/pop-up/trailer).
- Only soft-sided, on the ground tents are permitted in Loop B.
- Tents, vans, and small are RVs are permitted in Loop D.
- Individual water and power hook-ups are only available in Loops A, C, & E.
- All sites allow a maximum of eight occupants and two vehicles per site.
- Campground office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Check-out is 11 a.m.
- Campgrounds are closed to traffic and for quiet hours between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Davis Bayou Campground



Located east of downtown Ocean Springs, Mississippi, this campground is open all year-round. The campground features 52 sites nestled among live oaks and adjacent to a saltwater marsh. It provides easy access to boating, fishing, biking, and hiking trails. Full details about each campground can be found at www.nps.gov/guis.

Basic Details:

- All sites permit two tents or one tent and one RV (motorhome/fifth-wheel/trailer).
- All sites allow a maximum of eight occupants and two vehicles per site.
- Amenities include flush toilets, showers, drinking water and a dump station.
- Each site features individual water and power hook-ups.
- Generators are not permitted at any time in the campground.
- Campground office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Check-out is 11 a.m.
- Campgrounds are closed to traffic and for quiet hours between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Backcountry Camping



Boat-in backcountry camping is available in Florida at Perdido Key, and in Mississippi at Petit Bois, West Petit Bois, Horn, and the National Park Service portion of Cat Island. Currently hike in camping is suspended.

All campers must review and comply with the primitive camping regulations posted on the park's website at www.nps.gov/guis/playourvisit/backcountrycamping.htm.

Group Camping



Both Davis Bayou in Mississippi and the Fort Pickens Area and Naval Live Oaks Area in Florida, offer group campsites.

The Davis Bayou and Fort Pickens group campgrounds are for tents only and accommodate up to 40 people.

The Naval Live Oaks Area is available for reservation throughout the year for organized youth groups comprised primarily of young people under the age of 18.

Ranger Programs



Guided ranger programs offer one of the best ways to explore the cultural and natural stories of the national seashore.

Programs are offered year-round at Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas, and Davis Bayou areas. Seasonally, programs are also available at Ship Island and the Naval Live Oaks Area.

For the current schedule of programs visit our website www.nps.gov/guis

For Kids



Become a Junior Ranger at Gulf Islands National Seashore!



Investigate the Arrowhead

The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service.

You will see this arrowhead in every National Park Service site you visit in a variety of places.

Test your investigation skills!

Step 1. Find an arrowhead symbol in the park.

Step 2. Where did you find it?



Step 3. Look carefully at the arrowhead symbol. Every object in the arrowhead represents a feature protected within all National Park sites. Take a close look at the arrowhead and see if you can figure out the answers to the following questions.

1. The _____ represents all plants.

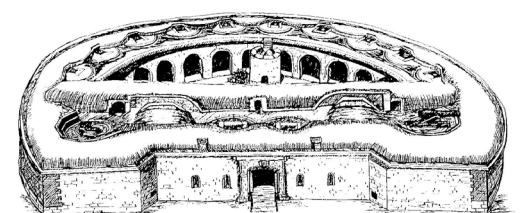
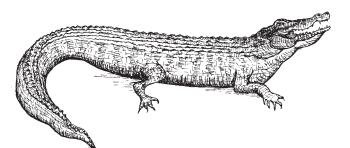
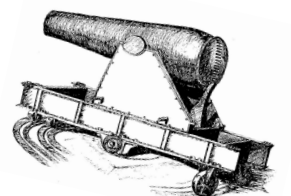
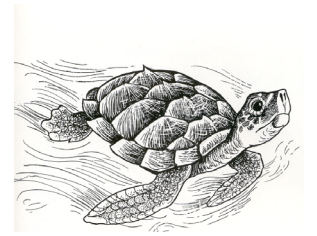
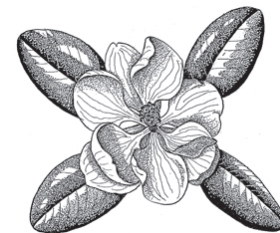
2. The _____ represents all animals.

3. The _____ represents land formations.

4. The _____ represents history.

Island Treasures

Circle the items you see on the island.



Continue your quest to become a Gulf Islands National Seashore Junior Ranger by picking up a Junior Ranger booklet at one of the park's center.

Permits, Pavilions, Fees, & Passes

Special Use Permits

A special park use is a short-term activity that takes place in a park area and typically provides a benefit to an individual, group or organization, rather than the general public.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Weddings
- Sporting events, races, and festivals
- Public assemblies
- Commercial filming and photography
- Research and collection activities
- Scattering cremated remains

Commercial activities may also require a permit through Commercial Use Authorizations.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Boat charters
- Food concessionaires
- Tourism service

A primary review of the permit is required and focuses on any anticipated damage to natural and cultural resources, and disruption of normal visitor use.

For more information email guis_special_use_permits@nps.gov

Entrance Fee (Valid for 1-7 Days)	
Private Vehicle	\$25
Motorcycle	\$20
Pedestrians & Bicyclists	\$15
Annual Passes	
Gulf Islands Annual Pass	\$45
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80
Interagency Senior Pass	\$20
Interagency Military Pass	Free
Lifetime Passes	
Interagency Senior Lifetime Pass	\$80
Interagency Access Pass	Free

Entrance fees are charged for most of the Florida areas of the national seashore. Visitors can purchase a digital park pass prior to arrival at www.recreation.gov.

Passes can also be purchased at the park's entrance stations. GUIs entrance stations only accept card. Cash and check are not accepted.

Passes are good for seven days. For more frequent visitors, the national seashore offers an annual pass that provides 12-months of unlimited access into all of the park's areas and an interagency pass that provides access to any national park.



Fees collected at national parks are used by the National Park Service for improvement and maintenance of park facilities and programs.

For more information on how fees are used to improve Gulf Islands National Seashore visit hwww.nps.gov/guis/planyourvisit/yourfeesatwork.htm



Pavilion Reservations

Several pavilions throughout the national seashore may be reserved in advance by the public. Seven sites in the Florida areas and four at the Davis Bayou Area in Mississippi can be reserved.

To reserve a pavilions email guis_special_use_permits@nps.gov

Safety Reminders & Important Park Regulations

For Your Safety:



The sun can be intense. Wear sunblock.



Be mindful of uneven surfaces.



Closed areas protect you and wildlife.



In case of an emergency call 911.

Learn more and get a complete list of park regulations on our website www.nps.gov/GulfIslands

Important Park Regulations:



Glass not permitted on beaches.



Metal detectors are not permitted.



Off road driving prohibited in all areas.

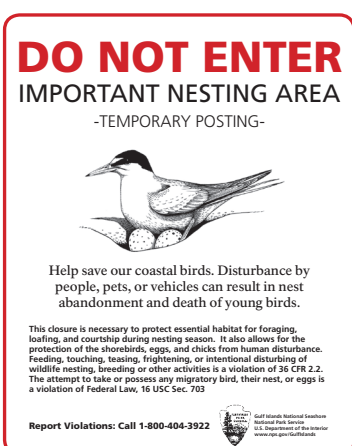


Unmanned Aircraft are not permitted.



Pets are not permitted in the forts or on the beaches.

Shorebird Closures



When walking on the national seashore's beaches between February and September, stay alert for signs and posts marking shorebird nesting areas

These areas are closed to all visitor use, as nesting shorebirds are easily spooked leading to nest abandonment and death of young birds. If you come across a closure, be sure to keep your distance and find an alternate route around the closed area.

Many of the Florida and Mississippi threatened or endangered shorebirds rely on the seashore as a habitat. The national seashore provides nesting habitat for several species of ground nesting shorebirds including least terns, snowy plovers, wilson's plovers, and black skimmers.